

THE WASHINGTON HERALD

Published Every Morning in the Year by
THE WASHINGTON HERALD COMPANY.

Publication Office:
724 FIFTEENTH STREET NORTHWEST.

Entered as second-class matter, October 5, 1908, at
the post-office at Washington, D. C., under act
of Congress of March 3, 1879.

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Telephone: Main 3390. (Private Branch Exchange.)

Subscription Rates by Courier or Mail.
Daily and Sunday.....\$5.00 per month
Daily and Sunday.....\$6.00 per year
Daily, without Sunday.....\$4.00 per month
Daily, without Sunday.....\$4.80 per year
Sunday, without daily.....\$2.00 per year

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All communications intended for this
newspaper, whether for the daily or the
Sunday issue, should be addressed to
THE WASHINGTON HERALD.

New York Representative, J. C. WILBERDING
SPECIAL AGENT, Brunswick Building.
Chicago Representative, BARNARD & BRAN-
HAM, Boyce Building.

FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 1909.

Advancing Our Interests in China.

The State Department's insistence on the participation of American financial interests in a Chinese loan about to be absorbed by German, English, and French bankers marks an advance in our Oriental policy of great significance. With respect to this particular loan an opportunity was afforded several years ago for American participation under an agreement with the Chinese government, and similar opportunities have been open to American capital since, which, probably owing to the heavy demand for loanable funds at home, did not appeal to our investors. The situation in this regard has changed, however, and we have an abundance of capital that can be employed in the far East under proper guarantees. Fortunately, an American syndicate composed of important New York financiers has been formed in time to take part in the proposed Chinese loan. To this enterprise our government has lent its powerful support by demanding of China that the original agreement for American participation be adhered to. The latest information is that the Chinese government has responded favorably to this representation, so that the new loan, amounting to \$27,500,000, will be divided among the bankers of the United States, England, Germany, and France, thus setting a precedent that is likely to be followed in the future.

The significance of our government's attitude toward this loan is that our influence over the course of events in the Chinese empire will be increased in proportion to the extension of American interests there. European powers have been particularly active in lending financial aid, through private investments, to various public enterprises in China. In view of the peculiar nature of the Chinese government and of the shaky character of its financial and monetary system, it is inevitable that foreign powers whose citizens are most deeply concerned in the stability of the empire and in the solvency of its finances will exercise a pre-dominant control over its political and financial development. The entrance of American bankers upon the field of Chinese investment means that the American government will enjoy precisely the same leverage on Chinese affairs, so far as they affect our financial interests, as other powers. We cannot be ruled out of consideration on the ground that we have nothing at stake. That the main purpose of the State Department in standing back of the American syndicate is to strengthen our influence as an Oriental power is unquestioned. As much is officially indicated in an authorized statement declaring that the department is encouraging the undertaking of our bankers because of its "direct benefit to American commerce and to international relations," thus confirming the general impression in London and other banking centers that the United States purposes to become a more potent factor than heretofore in the political and material rejuvenation of China, a process that may ultimately prove as striking as the rise of Japan.

President Taft's personal acquaintance with the Oriental situation will prove of great advantage to him in developing an active and intelligent policy in that quarter. The move just made shows that the administration is alive to American interests in the Orient and that these will be advanced by every legitimate means. It is a move that serves notice upon the rest of the world that we are not to be elbowed out of China by international financiers.

It is stated that ex-Senator "Billy" Mason will be a candidate to succeed "Uncle Shelby" Cullom. Several well-known gentlemen have tried to succeed "Uncle Shelby"—we forget their names.

Desires of the Infantry.

One of the infantry regimental commanders, Col. A. C. Sharpe, of the Twenty-third Infantry, on duty in the Philippines, has written a letter to his associates who are connected with what is known as the Infantry Association committee in Washington. The letter aims to point out what is desired by, and in behalf of, the officers of the infantry branch of the army. Col. Sharpe's comments in that particular are not specific beyond a plea for "equalization of opportunity by giving infantry officers their proportionate share, rank for rank, of details and positions of influence in administration," and "an increase of infantry so as to secure officers at least four years in cool climates, both to recuperate and to study."

More to the point is the assertion of Col. Sharpe that "it is impossible to retain in the tropics a minimum of one officer to a company," and that officer points out that in his command every company is commanded by a lieutenant, while two of the majors are absent. It is further pointed out that the retirements which are now occurring are for the most part not aged and infirm officers, "but young men, captains, and

even lieutenants, premature wrecks broken down by exposure to tropical light and heat."

This seems to be a serious indictment of the military system, and there must be some flagrant defect in army administration which requires that army officers who should be still in their prime are transferred from the active list. This comes about partly on account of the desire for such retirements on the part of junior officers who are benefited by the proceeding. To the observer who is not prejudiced by the natural desire for advancement, such as junior army officers are bound to be—without discredit to themselves—the legislation which is proposed for both army and navy seems to be founded mainly on the fact that it will help promotion at all hazards, regardless of the extent to which the retired list is extended by the addition of officers who ought, on account of their age, or lack of age, to be useful to the government for many years. Whatever claims commissioned officers of the army may have upon Congress for legislation which shall be productive of promotions, it would seem that Col. Sharpe has depicted a situation which ought to be corrected when it is found possible to have but one officer to a company in the tropics, and when young officers are being retired on account of excessive conditions of military service.

Judge Alton B. Parker expresses a desire to reorganize the Democratic party. In the matter of willingness to essay strenuous undertakings, it is evident enough that the late Hercules had nothing whatever on Judge Parker.

The Peril of the Plucked.

The Secretary of the Navy has ingeniously construed the law so as to consider that the retirement of three naval officers after thirty years' service does not create that many vacancies in estimating the number of vacancies which must occur annually in the United States navy under the provisions of the naval personnel law. This left twenty instead of seventeen vacancies which must be created during the year ending June 30, although the resignation of a lieutenant recently reduced this required number of vacancies to nineteen. It is upon this basis, therefore, that the so-called "plucking board," made up of rear admirals, must select for retirement officers who might well be considered as in their prime. Against this number, of course, will be placed the applications for retirement which are made up to June 30. It is impossible to estimate the number of vacancies which will have to be created by the naval plucking board, but there are destined to be at least ten, according to the most conservative guess.

It may well be imagined that naval officers who are of the grades destined to be regarded critically by the plucking board are in a position of grave anxiety, if not real alarm. Not only is their connection with the naval active list in jeopardy, but they are apt to consider that their enforced retirement by the system carries with it a certain amount of discredit, or at least a characteristic which places them in the attitude of self-defense. This ought not to be in a time when the navy is short of officers and when it is described as requiring increases in its commissioned personnel; but, aside from that factor, the method of elimination is calculated to embarrass those who are eliminated. They have no opportunity to be heard in explanation of their shortcomings as discovered by the plucking board, and so far as the country knows from anything which is vouchsafed by the Navy Department, the officers selected-out meet that fate because they are not worthy of being continued on the active list of the navy. It is surprising to find that it is received with no more protest within the service itself.

Strange that man should experience so much difficulty in ascertaining what whiskey is, and so little ascertaining where it is.

A Spanish Fly in the Amber.

It may be good now and then to see ourselves as others see us, but it depends somewhat upon the point of view and the capacities of the critic as to whether the result have the sound effect of self-discipline or whether it merely provokes meriment. Who enjoys what is still regarded, after more than a century of progressive development, as the high privilege of citizenship in the United States, will not fail of an initial emotion of surprise at beholding the picture of our political condition and status of civilization as drawn by El Correo Espanol, the organ of the Spanish colony in the City of Mexico. According to this authority, the "ambition, the rapacity, and the violence of the North Americans know no limits." We have "scandalized the world" by our "persecution of Castro." We are responsible for the conflicts and the rumors of conflicts in Central America. Finally, the affairs of Porto Rico and the Philippines complete a picture that "has no equal for ambition, arbitrariness, rapacity, fraud, and violence."

Now, proud North Americans, what think you of that arraignment before the editorial bar, right in the capital city of our next-door neighbor? It is somewhat anomalous, by the way, that this judgment finds voice in the capital of a neighboring republic that threw off the yoke of Spain and whose political independence of Europe falls within the protecting circle of the Monroe doctrine. However, it is fair to assume that this opinion is that of one Spanish editor, and to hold it doubtful whether it is shared by any considerable number even of its own readers.

Nor, when we look even a little way backward, can we fail to recall that, not in minute instances, but practically the entire press of the United States was of one mind and voice in its arraignment of old Spain for the crimes of its barbaric misrule in Cuba. What did we leave unsaid in our denunciation of the cruelties of Weyer? What was left unwritten in our vocabulary of condemnation of the economic waste and of the inhuman barbarities of the ruthless, policy of reconcentration? What horrible

picture was left undrawn of the ruthless imprisonment and starvation of the old and infirm, and of women and children of a people in arms against rapacious tyranny? With what difficult self-restraint did our just wrath hold itself in check under the provocation of spectral and pestilential outrages at our very doors, and with what measureless patience did we delay intervention, even under the strain wrought by the destruction of the Maine?

But there was this vital difference. The wrongs inflicted upon Cuba by Spain were so monstrous that the hideous truth defied exaggeration. In contrast, the guarantee of continued independence thrown around all the Latin-American republics under the aegis of the United States is in itself the guardian of that freedom of speech throughout these continents that only occasionally degenerates into the vulgar license of abuse and the unworthiness of falsehood. Such exceptions serve to illustrate only more vividly the bonds of genuine friendship between this country of Washington and the other lands of cis-Atlantic liberty.

Dr. Elliot, late president of Harvard University, says: "Men are not born equal." It is of relatively small importance, anyway, if they are, they soon get over it.

A New York man claims to be able to talk 5,000 words per hour. The trouble, we suspect, however, is that he does not say anything while talking them.

"Uncle Joe" admitted recently that he cares little or nothing for baseball. But it must be remembered that he also expressed recently quite a fondness for golf. That ought to insure him a fairly satisfactory rating with the present administration.

"Riches used to take wings, but an automobile is fast enough these days," says the Dallas News. Do not be too sure of it; we are on the threshold of an aeroplane era, apparently.

"In the African jungle just now, every day must seem like the Fourth of July," says the Providence Journal. Not the Fourth of July, 1909. That will fall on Sunday.

"Grand Rapids has a surplus of \$300,000 in its treasury," says the Chicago Tribune. Grand Rapids, indeed! Poor old Philadelphia can go a pace that would soon make such a surplus look like 30 cents.

And now Miss Scott adds his "emphatic denial" to Miss Farris's. So we suspect congratulations are in order, after all.

Mr. James Jeffries says he will surely whip Jack Johnson. Mr. Jeffries is, plainly enough, a stickler for prize-ring etiquette.

"And Senator Aldrich was once an innocent little child," says the Ohio State Journal. He seems to have developed quite after the fashion of other infant industries, too.

Senator Augustus Octavius Bacon is now a full-fledged LL. D. And the Senator's bitterest enemy would not deny that he accurately looks the part, moreover.

"Mr. Harriman is a poor correspondent," says the New York Post. Always leaves one wishing he had added a postscript!

Since the advent of the automobile, pedestrians find it more necessary than ever before to keep to pathways straight and narrow.

The theory being, presumably, that a proposed tax on corporate profits may be made to cover a multitude of campaign buncombe.

The goosebumps, the tree frogs, and the human corn all bespeak fair and rare June days, but somehow the weather man invariably seems to beat them to it when it comes to an actual showdown.

Chicago, it is said, can boast three new divorces granted to New York's one. New York's must be the more odorous; we seem to hear more of them, anyway.

"In Nebraska an aeroplane fell 3,500 feet without breaking a bone. It begins to look as if Nebraska is raising another Presidential candidate for the Democratic party," says the Baltimore Star. Still, it is not disputed that the aeroplane made a landing—and an emphatic one—is it?

A Brooklyn man ate a beer glass the other day. And now there is at least one erstwhile consumer who may be very properly designated a ghost.

"An expert gun tester"—rather indelicate that, of course—says, "Mr. Roosevelt is totally color blind." Maybe; and yet several people in this world have tried to make him believe black was white, but not one of them succeeded.

Mr. John D. Archbold has just made a magnificent monetary gift to Chancellor Day's university at Syracuse. The chancellor is the interesting person, you know, who could not see the text on Mr. Archbold's money with a 50,000-horsepower microscope.

The Hartford Times discusses exhaustively, "How to save strawberries." Curiously enough, it neglects the most important thing—the elucidation of the method of overcoming the temptation not to.

"That prohibition 'wave' seems to have a funny way of 'receding.' Towns keep on going 'dry.'"

When Aldrich Has Won Out.

Senator Taylor has finished a new lecture, "Happy Valley," with which he will take to the Chautauqua platforms as soon as Aldrich clubs and bribes the tariff retractants into submission.

Many Husbands.

From the Cleveland Leader.
"I have three husbands to support," pleaded the fagged beggar woman.
"What you are a bigamist!"
"No, sir. One husband's mine, and the others belong to my two daughters."

From the Philadelphia North American.

Aldrich thinks the tariff bill has been amended that it is now acceptable to the people. A careful examination of the bill shows that he bases his belief on the clause placing radium on the free list.

From the Dallas News.

Some of the boys who used to hope for red-top boots now have sons who yearn for carmine touring cars.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

ALWAYS CONTENTED.

Most poets prate of boyhood days they spent upon the farm. They laud the farm in divers lays and write in its praise.

I used to chaperon the hen and engineer the plow. But, while I was contented then, I'm just as happy now.

While now I breast the urban strife, 'tis not the worst of lots. There are some joys in city life and many pleasant spots.

I used to dry-shampoo the horse and manure the cow. And I was happy then, of course, but I'm as happy now.

Modern Life.

"Engaged to that beautiful girl, and yet not happy?"

"Well, she's gone in by turns for rowing, and tennis, and horses, and golf, and dogs."

"Say on."

"Sometimes I wonder if I am a sweet-heart, or merely a fad."

One Opinion.

"Why do the future authorities get up a crinoline scare every year?"

"To make us thankful for the styles they send us, it may be."

Is It?

Some think that happiness is served in short orders.

His Lot.

The graduate must sit up straight, be receptive, be, and nice. Give ear polite.

To maxima time.

And odds of advice.

New Times.

The woman who formerly made the best preserves now writes a thesis.

Shakespeare Vindicated.

"I think that Shakespeare was wrong."

"As to how?"

"Does any one ever really have greatness thrust upon him?"

"It often happens. There's the Vice Presidency, you know."

When Hubby Is Good.

"Caught your husband drinking or gambling lately?"

"No."

"Nor I mine. And I certainly do need a new dress."

LOST OKLAHOMA TOWN.

Once Headquarters of Chickasaw Nation.

Alaska correspondence Kansas City Star.

Twelve miles east of this place is one of the "lost" towns of Oklahoma, Boggy Depot, lying in the lowlands of Boggy Creek. Many years ago Boggy Depot was a noted place in Indian Territory.

When Col. James Boggy, as an agent of the Federal government, brought the Chickasaw Indians from Mississippi in 1832 he pitched his tent on the ground where afterward stood Boggy Depot. The Chickasaws made a treaty with the government wherein it was provided that all business and Chickasaw families were to be paid of money, should be transacted at Boggy Depot, this place being chosen by the Indians because of the fact that all supplies for the Chickasaws were hauled in wagons to Boggy Depot from Fort Smith, Ark.

For years Boggy Depot was a government post. When the lands held by the Chickasaws and Chickasaws were divided between the two tribes the Chickasaws moved westward to their present home and Boggy Depot was abandoned as a government post. The wealth of a number of Chickasaw families was based on the fact that they had acquired in trade at Boggy Depot.

Most of the commercial salt used in Southern Indian Territory and Northern Texas was manufactured from the waters of Salt Creek, a small stream that flowed near the town. Settlers came for miles on horseback and in wagons and carried the salt away in bags. At the beginning of the civil war the Confederate government took charge of the salt works and manufactured salt for the Confederate army in this part of the country. One of the old kettles used at that time is owned by A. R. Faudree, of this place.

Boggy Depot was the birthplace of a number of persons now of wide acquaintance in Oklahoma, among them being Mr. Robert L. Owen, wife of United States senator, and daughter of Capt. Hester, who became rich in land chandising; Charles D. Carter, member of Congress from the Fourth Oklahoma district; Dr. E. N. Wright, for years physician of the Choctaw government; and a host of others.

Rev. Frank Wright, a successful missionary of the Presbyterian church among the plains Indians of Western Oklahoma.

Queen Mdhlovukosi.

From the Pall Mall Gazette.

Somewhat or other one expects a country with such a name as Swaziland to be happy, and sure enough, Mr. Coryndon, the commissioner of the country, who is just leaving on his return to Mbabane, the capital, and has just been through the inevitable interview, paints a rosy picture. The country, he says, has never been more prosperous than at present, and he indirectly attributes this state of things to the wisdom, simplicity, and alertness of the chief regent, a lady happy in the appellation of Mdhlovukosi, which is, being interpreted, the Female Elephant. For twenty-five years she has administered justice from her native kraal and been a loyal friend of England. When she travels in state her coach is a cart drawn by six mules; and her retinue of attendants is one of the grand scale one would expect from a lady of her name.

Kindness to Millionaires.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

A woman of Colorado Springs improved the shining hours by being kind to an invalid millionaire, which was so contrary to the prevailing practice there that he was deeply impressed, and dying left her \$25,000 in coin of the realm.

Thereupon the people manifested great interest. "Lo!" said they, "this thing of being kind to a millionaire seems to be very much of a man. Bring on your millionaires that we may administer unto them."

But, as the common saying is, there was nothing doing, and so the people mourned that the only millionaire of the right sort had been gathered to his fathers.

Husbands' Unique Tribute.

From the Mobile Register.

A raid was made in the "Baptist Bottoms" recently by a party of officers, which succeeded in the seizure of a blind tiger. A negro by the name of John Owens was the violator of the law, who was caught with some twenty bottles of the goods in his possession. John is the husband of Carrie Owens, who is familiarly known in police quarters as one of the famous "ladies of the bottom."

The whiskey found in this place bore the label, "Old Carrie Owens," which goes to show that the woman is not young in the business.

A Moss-covered Dogma?

John Sharp Williams revamps Jeremy Bentham's catch phrase that "That government is best which governs least." If John Sharp should wake up he might discover that this moss-covered dogma has been rejected by every modern philosopher and political scientist who has any recognized standing.

Now and Then.

Some of the boys who used to hope for red-top boots now have sons who yearn for carmine touring cars.

DEFINING REPUBLICANISM.

De Aldrich, Hale, Lodge, and Smoot Really Stand for It?

From the New York Times.

Is an Aldrich Republican one of the people who stands for the masses in their effort for a living, as against the classes who believe that greed and its attainments are fundamental in the Constitution, and that the only use of the poor classes is to become the servants of those who have had access to the loaves and fishes through the chicanery of laws passed at the instigation of those who were next to the throne?

Has he stood for the masses of this country? And are his acts such as to mark him as the only Republican in the Senate?

The very fact that some of the brightest men in the Senate are in opposition to this man is sufficient to cause his Republicanism to be questioned. Does it follow, because those men have refused to stultify themselves and accede to Aldrich's demands, that they are no longer Republicans, and is there not a bare possibility, after all, that he is the only man of his party outside of Hale, Lodge, and Smoot who is not a Republican?

FATES UNKIND TO TAFT.

Perplexity and Embarrassment Early in His Administration.

From the Philadelphia North American.

We do not think the fate have been kind to President Taft since last November. It seems as if ill-fortunes had determined, perversely, to cause those whom he trusts most and for whom he has the strongest intellectual and temperamental sympathy to force him constantly into perplexity and embarrassment. Not even with Lincoln and with Garfield in mind can we recall an instance when a President during the first four months of his term of office was placed by his own advisers so frequently at a loss as Taft.

But it would be no real friend now who would conceal from President Taft the truth that the time has come when the American people no longer will tolerate Presidential inaction, or the nonpartisan reliance upon the judiciary, but in the Executive indicative only of impotence.

NO EXCUSE FOR IT ALL.

Our Products Should Not Cost More at Home Than Abroad.

From the Duluth Herald.

Can there be any excuse for a tariff which enables the watch trust to sell watches abroad for \$7.50, when it charges \$10.25 for the same watches at home?

Is a tariff justified which enables it to sell cheaper watches abroad at \$3.04 when the home price is \$4.47?

What warrant is there for a tariff which allows a price of \$2.65 for short-goods which are sold abroad for \$2.50? Or for a tariff that allows a home price of 65 cents a dozen for lamp chimneys and a foreign price of 40 cents a dozen? Or for a tariff that allows a home price of \$9 per dozen for saws which sell abroad for \$6 per dozen? Or for a tariff that makes screws sell at 67 cents per gross here and 35 cents per gross abroad?

John Hay's Humor.

Charles C. Moore, in Putnam's Magazine.

Few of our public men have had a more delicate or delicious humor, coupled in an unusual way with a keen and cutting wit. We are fortunate in the preservation of so many of his addresses. Speaking of his frequent opportunities for talking in England, Mr. Hay wrote to a friend: "You never saw a people so willing and eager to be bored as these blessed John Bulls. If I were of the Xenonic type, which takes delight in human anguish, I could make a speech every night the year round. But I refrain—being merciful and lazy."

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CONQUEST OF THE AIR

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

The official trials of the Wright aeroplane at Fort Myer, Va., which are about to begin, will work a renewal of intense popular interest in airships. The flights of Orville Wright at Fort Myer last fall, which terminated in the death of Lieut. Selfridge, the injury of Wright, and the wreck of the aeroplane, were only tests. The fulfillment of the dream of the Wright brothers, which the government will yield them \$25,000, with a liberal bonus for extra speed.

The Wright brothers proved in the United States their claims as pioneers in the realm of the birds, and then proceeded to astonish Europe. They are selling aeroplanes in France and Italy, the French government having paid them \$100,000 for their patent rights in that country. A company has been organized in Germany for the construction of Wright aeroplanes. The brothers will return to Europe later this year and give demonstrations in England, Germany, and perhaps other countries. The machines which they are now building will carry two passengers, but they say the aeroplane eventually may be capable of carrying fourteen or sixteen passengers.

Sixty Wright machines are being built in France at a cost of \$7,500 each. The Wrights have already eliminated the awkward starting "C" which was a feature of their aeroplane, and are said to have about evolved great improvements in the steering apparatus.

Miss Katherine Wright is no longer designated as the "sister of those crazy Wright boys." She participated in part of their European triumphs, and the three received a royal welcome when they returned to America. The city of Dayton, Ohio, the home of the aviators, broke all records for a real "boom" when the coloration, at which nothing was left undone which would show the pride which their fellow-citizens and neighbors took in the achievement of the inventors. The brothers received medals from their State and city, from the Aero Club of America, and, finally, from the United States government. President Taft himself, in the historic East Room of the White House, placed upon the bosom of the champion navigators of the air the beautiful gold medals awarded them by Congress.

The records of the Patent Office show that over 400 patents on flying machines of various kinds and their parts have been granted, of which fifty or more were issued during the last six months. Two of these were granted to the Wrights for improvement on their aeroplanes. Representative Butler Ames, of Massachusetts, grandson of Gen. B. F. Butler, has applied for a patent on a machine, the principal feature of which is that the planes revolve on horizontal axes. The inventor is said to have obtained the idea for this scheme by watching flutter to the ground a bent pasteboard card which he had thrown out of